

Records of the U.S. House of Representatives
RG.233.12.House
12th Congress

**Finding aid prepared by the Office of Art and Archives,
Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration
Title	House Records of the 12th Congress
Date [inclusive]	1811-1813
Extent	11.5 Cubic feet
Language	English

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Center for Legislative Archives, National Archives and Records Administration

Conditions Governing Access note

The records are governed by Rule VII(3)b of the House Rules:

(b) (1) A record shall immediately be made available if it was previously made available for public use by the House or a committee or a subcommittee. (2) An investigative record that contains personal data relating to a specific living person (the disclosure of which would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy), an administrative record relating to personnel, or a record relating to a hearing that was closed under clause 2(g)(2) of rule XI shall be made available if it has been in existence for 50 years. (3) A record for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the House shall be made available in accordance with that order. Except as otherwise provided by order of the House, a record of a committee for which a time, schedule, or condition for availability is specified by order of the committee (entered during the Congress in which the record is made or acquired by the committee) shall be made available in accordance with the order of the committee. (4) A record (other than a record referred to in subparagraph (1), (2), or (3)) shall be made available if it has been in existence for 30 years.

Records of Legislative Proceedings

Collection Inventory

Records of Legislative Proceedings 1811-1813

Journals 1811-1813 0.5 Cubic feet (3 volumes)

Scope and Contents note

The journals series includes a legislative journal, 1st session (12A–A1) and 2d session (12A–A2); and a secret journal, 11th Congress, 3d session and 12th Congress, 1st session (11A–A4).

Bills and Resolutions Originating in the House 1811-1813 1.0 Cubic feet

Scope and Contents note

The bills and resolutions originating in the House include original House bills (12A–B1); House simple resolutions, motions, and orders (12A–B2); and engrossed House bills (12A–B3).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged numerically within each group, except 12A–B2, which is arranged chronologically.

Committees 1811-1813

Committee on Accounts 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Committee on Accounts was created on December 27, 1803, and was made a standing committee in 1805. Its jurisdiction covered all subjects "touching the expenditure of the contingent fund of the House, [and] the auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged therein to the House." In addition, the committee was responsible for the accountability of officers of the House, the procurement of rooms for the use of House committees and for the Speaker, and for recommending and authorizing the employment of such persons as stenographers, reporters of debates, janitors, and clerks and staff assistants for committees, members and senators. The Committee on Accounts existed from 1803-1946, and later was incorporated into the Committee on House Administration.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Accounts include a report on the nature of the contingent expenses of the House (12A–C1.1).

Committee on Claims 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by Select Committees on Claims. The committee was to consider all petitions and matters or things touching on claims and demands on the United States and report appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized. Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. In the years that followed, other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims. Under the 1880 revised House Rules, subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee. At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over

Committees

the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Claims document various subjects (12A–C2.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Claims document various subjects (12A–F1.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by petitioner.

Committee on Commerce and Manufactures 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The standing Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was created in 1795 to "take into consideration all such petitions and matters of things touching the commerce and manufactures of the United States, as shall be presented, or shall or may come into question, and be referred to

Committees

them by the House, and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief therein, as to them shall be expedient." In 1819 the committee was divided to form the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Manufactures.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures document various subjects (12A–C3.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures include aids to navigation (12A–F2.1); duties and drawbacks (12A–F2.2); the embargo (12A–F2.3); encouragement of the culture of hemp (12A–F2.4); ports of entry (12A–F2.5); seizure of the schooner Oceanus at Naples under the Berlin and Milan decrees (12A–F2.6); and various subjects (12A–F2.7).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the District of Columbia 1811-1813

Committees

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on the District of Columbia was established on January 27, 1808. The committee's duty was to consider all petitions and memorials relating to the affairs of the District of Columbia referred to them by the House. Jurisdiction consisted of various municipal concerns of the District of Columbia including those involving streets, schools and teachers, railroads, police and fire departments, claims against the District Government, insurance, taxes, health and safety, liquor sales, incorporation of organizations and societies, and other matters that were the normal concerns of city and State governments. Since its creation the committee has shared jurisdiction on District concerns with other committees, and in particular with the Committees on Education and Labor, Interior, Banking and Currency, Judiciary, and Public Works. The committee was known as the Committee on the District of Columbia from 1801-1995. The committee was split and absorbed by subcommittees of the Committee on Appropriations and by the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the District of Columbia include applications for divorce by act of Congress (12A-F3.1); Bank of Washington (12A-F3.2); establishment of an institution of learning to be known as Washington College (12A-F3.3); improvement of the Potomac River (12A-F3.4); marriage license fees (12A-F3.5); and various subjects (12A-F3.6).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Elections 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

Committees

The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the U.S. House of Representatives to perform this function on April 13, 1789. The jurisdiction of the committee was to examine and report on the certificates of election and other election credentials, as well as election returns and proceedings for elections of House Members, and to contest elections of Members where these credentials and election proceedings were not deemed valid. The committee was known as the Committee on Elections from 1789 until 1895, when it was split into three separate election committees.

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Hungerford, John Pratt, 1761-1833
- Taliaferro, John, 1768-1852

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Elections document the contested election case of John Taliaferro v. John P. Hungerford, Virginia (12A–C4.1).

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Elections include a petition of John Taliaferro contesting the election of John P. Hungerford of Virginia (12A–F4.1).

Committees

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committee on Foreign Affairs 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, however, its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. The jurisdiction of the committee includes relations of the United States with foreign nations generally; acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries; establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations; export controls, including nonproliferation of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; foreign loans; international commodity agreements (other than those involving sugar), including all agreements for cooperation in the export of nuclear technology and nuclear hardware; international conferences and congresses; international education; intervention abroad and declarations of war; diplomatic service; measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad; international economic policy; neutrality; protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation; the American National Red Cross; trading with the enemy; and United Nations organizations. The committee has oversight over the U.S. Department of State.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs document relations with Great Britain (12A–C5.1).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Foreign Affairs document relations with Great Britain and France (12A–F5.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committee on Military Affairs 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

A succession of House select committees considered legislation on military affairs from 1811 until 1822, when the House established a standing Committee on Military Affairs. The jurisdiction of the committee included appropriation bills covering the military establishment, the public defense, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The committee reported the military appropriation bills until 1920, when that power was transferred to the Appropriations Committee. Jurisdiction of the committee also included the establishment and care of national cemeteries and battlefields; acquisition and conveyance of lands for military reservations and improvements upon such grounds; disposition of war trophies and distribution of obsolete weapons and armament; conduct of joint operations of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and promotion of military aviation and Army aeronautics. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the Committee on Military Affairs and transferred its jurisdiction to the newly-created Armed Services Committee.

Committees

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813**Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Select Committee on Military Affairs document various subjects (12A–C6.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813**Scope and Contents note**

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Military Affairs document various subjects (12A–F6.1).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Select Committee on Naval Affairs 1811-1813**Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813****Scope and Contents note**

The committee reports and papers of the Select Committee on Naval Affairs include the exploits of Captains Hull, Decatur, and Jones (12A–C7.1); and various subjects (12A–C7.2).

Committees

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Select Committee on Naval Affairs include coastal defenses (12A-F7.1); and privateers of the city of Baltimore (12A-F7.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

A Select Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads was established in 1806 and made a standing committee in 1808. The jurisdiction of the committee extended to all proposed legislation relating to the carrying of the mails, both foreign and domestic. It included the determination of the location, construction, and maintenance of post offices and post roads; the acquisition, lease, or transfer of realty or facilities for postal purposes; and certain aspects of the employment and management of postal employees, such as the pay and leave of letter carriers, and the settlement of claims brought by employees or contractors. Also included was the regulation of the Postal Service, including postal rates, the franking privilege, and the printing of stamped envelopes. At various times, the Railway Mail Service, ocean mail service, pneumatic tube service, postal savings banks, postal telegraphy, the Air Mail Service, and Rural Free Delivery were included in its jurisdiction. As part of its responsibility, the committee investigated the management of postal facilities, contracts for carrying the mail, and other subjects such as the forgery of postal money orders. In 1885 the

Committees

jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include appropriation authority and prepared Post Office appropriations bills from that time until 1920 when the authority was revoked under a rule change. The committee functioned until 1946 when its jurisdiction was included in that of the new Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document various subjects (12A–C8.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads document the establishment of post routes in Indiana Territory (12A–F8.1), Kentucky (12A–F8.2), New Hampshire (12A–F8.3), New York (12A–F8.4), North Carolina (12A–F8.5), Ohio (12A–F8.6), Pennsylvania (12A–F8.7), Tennessee (12A–F8.8), and Virginia (12A–F8.9); prohibition of the transportation of the mails on Sunday (12A–F8.10); and various subjects (12A–F8.11).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committees

Committee on Public Lands 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Public Lands was established in 1805 and given jurisdiction over matters relating to the lands of the United States. Jurisdiction of the committee included the sale and settlement of public lands, land claims, minerals and waters on public lands, irrigation, forest reserves and game living in them, national parks, conservation, land grants, foreign ownership of land, and administration of the lands of the public domain. The establishment of a land court and to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain states and territories was also part of the committee's jurisdiction. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the committees on Indian Affairs; Territories, Mines and Mining; Irrigation and Reclamation; and Insular Affairs were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined with those of the Committee on Public Lands. On February 2, 1951, the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to more accurately reflect the full scope of its jurisdiction.

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Public Lands document various subjects (12A–C9.1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

Committees

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Public Lands include a plan of Reverend Gabriel Richard to educate children in the Michigan Territory (12A–F9.1); and various subjects (12A–F9.2).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on Ways and Means 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. The jurisdiction of the committee includes customs revenue, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; reciprocal trade agreements; revenue measures generally; revenue measures relating to insular possessions; bonded debt of the United States, subject to the last sentence of clause 4(f); deposit of public monies; transportation of dutiable goods; tax exempt foundations and charitable trusts; and national social security (except health care and facilities programs that are supported from general revenues as opposed to payroll deductions and except work incentive programs).

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of the Committee on Ways and Means include “papers relative to the appropriations for the support of Government for 1813” (12A–C10.1); penalties incurred by importation of British manufactures (12A–C10.2); and various subjects (12A–C10.3).

Arrangement note

Committees

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on Ways and Means document collectors of revenue (12A-F10.1); duties (12A-F10.2); the embargo (12A-F10.3); and various subjects (12A-F10.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Other Select Committees 1811-1813

Committee Reports and Papers 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The committee reports and papers of other select committees document the business of the House of Representatives (12A-C11.1); consuls and vice-consuls (12A-C11.2); roads and canals (12A-C11.3); and various subjects (12A-C11.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Committees

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to other select committees document the removal of the office of the Commissioner of Loans from Annapolis to Baltimore (12A–F11.1); renewal of Eli Whitney’s patent on the cotton gin (12A–F11.2); Union Canal Company of Pennsylvania (12A–F11.3); and various subjects (12A–F11.4).

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

Committee on the Whole House 1811-1813

Biographical/Historical note

The Committee of the Whole consists of the entire membership of the House and stems from a practice in the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself/herself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Referred to Committees 1811-1813

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were referred to the Committee on the Whole House document the importation of goods from Great Britain, her colonies, or dependencies (12A–F12.1); post roads (12A–F12.2); government of Louisiana Territory (12A–F12.3); relief of infirm, disabled, and superannuated officers and soldiers (12A–F12.4); patent bill (12A–F12.5); and various subjects (12A–F12.6).

President's Messages

Arrangement note

The subjects are arranged chronologically within each group, unless otherwise indicated.

President's Messages 1811-1813 0.66 Cubic feet (3 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The president's messages include annual messages, with pertinent documents, 1811 and 1812; messages suggesting legislation or submitting specific information or documents; and messages transmitting reports and communications from executive departments (12A–D1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically.

Reports and Communications Submitted to the House 1811-1813 0.58 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

The reports and communications submitted to the House are from the Secretary of the Treasury, including one volume (12A–E1); and the Secretaries of War and the Navy, one volume (12A–E2). Also included are reports of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th, and 13th Congresses (5A–E1); and the Secretary of State, 6th Congress, 2d session, to 10th Congress, 1st session, and 12th Congress, 1st session, to 15th Congress, 1st session (6A–E1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Petitions and Memorials, Resolutions of State Legislatures, and Related Documents Which Were Tabled 1811-1813 1.0 Cubic feet

Election Records

Scope and Contents note

The petitions and memorials, resolutions of state legislatures, and related documents which were tabled are against war (12A–G1.1); the embargo (12A–G1.2); opening of post offices and carrying mails on the Sabbath (12A–G1.3); and various subjects (12A–F1.4).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Election Records 1811-1813**Scope and Contents note**

The election records include credentials of Representatives and Delegates (12A–H1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by state or territory.

Other Records 1811-1813 0.04 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include various papers (12A–J1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged by subject.

Records of the Office of the Clerk 1811-1813

Index

Index 1811-1813**Scope and Contents note**

The index includes transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 3d Congress, 2d session, to 19th Congress, 1st session (3C–C1). For the index to committee reports and to reports and communications from executive departments, see 1C-D1, 1st Congress, 1st session, to 14th Congress, 2d session.

Record Book 1811-1813**Scope and Contents note**

The record book consists of a petition book, 10th Congress, 2d session, to 14th Congress, 2d session (10C–A1).

Records of Committee Reports 1811-1813 0.5 Cubic feet (2 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The records of committee reports include transcribed reports of the Committee on Claims, 12th Congress, 1st session, to 16th Congress, 1st session (12C–A1); and select committees, 12th Congress, 1st session, to 14th Congress, 1st session (12C–A2). Also included are transcribed reports of the Committee on Ways and Means, 8th Congress, 1st session to 18th Congress, 2d session (8C–A2); the Committee on Accounts, 9th Congress, 1st session; 11th Congress, 2d session, and 12th Congress, 1st session; and 25th Congress, 2d session (9C–A1); the Committee on Public Lands, 9th Congress, 1st session, to 19th Congress, 2d session (9C–A2); and the Committee on the District of Columbia, 10th Congress, 1st session, to 27th Congress, 1st session (10C–B1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Records of Reports from Executive Departments

Records of Reports from Executive Departments 1811-1813 0.5 Cubic feet (2 volumes)**Scope and Contents note**

The records of reports from executive departments include transcribed reports and communications from the Secretary of State, 12th Congress, 1st session, to 14th Congress, 1st session (12C–B1); and the Secretary of the Treasury (12C–B2). Also included are reports from the Secretary of the Navy, 5th Congress, 3d session, to 12th Congress, 1st session (5C–B3); and the Secretary of War, 6th Congress, 1st session, to 13th Congress, 2d session (6C–A2).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged chronologically within each group.

Other Records 1811-1813 0.5 Cubic feet**Scope and Contents note**

Other records include receipts for records withdrawn (12C–C1).

Arrangement note

The records are arranged alphabetically by subject.